

NUMISMA.

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VOL. 3.

ADVERTISERS READ THIS :—"I enclose \$1.00 on account, and desire to keep my advertisement in Numisma for the present. I have advertised nowhere else, and have done more business in coins last year than ever before, all through the little advertisements I gave you." Ferguson Haines, Biddeford, Maine, February 27, 1879.

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WANTED.—Complete set, or any odd numbers or volumes of the "American Journal of Numismatics," bound or unbound, in exchange for rare U. S. coins, or cash in advance. G. W. Geist, Topton, Berks Co., Pa.

WANTED.—Varieties of Connecticut cents for my private collection. Ed. Frossard, Irvington, N. Y.

REVIEW OF THE MERRITT SALE.

(Concluded.)

- 284 1795 Fine impression, with milling very wide under the date. Struck on a thin planchet, desirable. 5 25.
- 285 — From the same dies as last, of brilliant red color. Very fine, though not strictly uncirculated. 4 55.
- 286 1796 Liberty and date very good, hair rubbed. R Very fair. A better specimen of this rare date is very seldom offered. 29 00.
- 287 1797 Well struck, wide milling. Fine. 5 25.
- 288 1800 Head with fillet to right. Fine, reddish. 1 30.
- 290 1802 Struck over 1800, as all the half-cents of this date are. Fine for date, and desirable. 5 00.
- 299 1810 Good impression. 1 30.
- 301 1811 Fine for date. 4 00.
- 307 1828 12 stars. Fine uncirculated impression, dark red. 2 75.
- 311 1831 Brilliant proof. *Rare.* 10 00.
- 313 1833 Brilliant proof. *Rare.* 2 37.
- 315 1834 Proof, fine. *Rare.* 2 85.
- 320 1836 Brilliant proof. *Rare.* 11 50.
- 321 1837 HALF-CENT WORTH OF PURE COPPER. Fine, uncirculated. *Scarce.* 65.
- 322 1840 Brilliant proof, original obv. and rev. *Rare.* 8 00.
- 323 1841 Brilliant proof, stars connected on left, mint restrike of original obv. with rev. of later date. *Rare.* 5 70.
- 324 1842 Brilliant proof, same reverse as last. *Rare.* 6 00.
- 325 1843 Brilliant proof, same reverse. *Rare.* 5 75.
- 326 1844 Brilliant proof, same reverse. *Rare.* 5 75.
- 327 1845 Brilliant proof, same reverse. *Rare.* 5 75.
- 328 1846 Brilliant proof, same reverse. *Rare.* 5 75.
- 329 1847 Brilliant proof, same reverse. *Rare.* 5 75.
- 330 1848 Brilliant proof, same reverse. *Rare.* 5 90.
- 331 1849 Proof, slightly finger-marked on obverse; small date; original reverse. *Rare.* 6 00.
- 336 1852 Dark proof. *Rare.* 6 25.
- 340 1855 Proof impression. *Scarce.* 1 20.
- 343 1856 Proof impression; slight spot on field. 1 37.
- 346 1857 Proof impression. *Scarce.* 1 75.

TWO RARE COLONIAL COINS.

- 349 1785 IMMUNE COLUMBIA. Liberty seated on a pedestal holds in her right hand a flag, the staff of which is surmounted with a liberty cap; in her outstretched left the

scale of justice. R NOVA CONSTELLATIO. The All-seeing eye within a glory of rays and thirteen stars. Bold impression, finely preserved. *Very rare.* 22 50.

- 350 1786 IMMUNE COLUMBIA. Liberty seated on a globe; otherwise similar to preceding. R Shield with E PLURIBUS UNUM; nearly proof; a beautiful coin, with perfectly milled rim. *Excessively rare.* 53 00.

THE END.

IRREGULARITIES AT THE PHILADELPHIA MINT.

For a long time the most serious charges have been made by well informed parties against the gross irregularities which characterize the distribution or sale of pattern pieces, and even of the regular issues of our national coinage, at the Philadelphia mint. In an article reproduced without comments from the "Nation" which appears in the January number of the American Journal of Numismatics, it is charged among other things that while the printed rules of the mint provide that specimens shall be presented yearly to the various Numismatic societies of the country, it has lately been the custom of our mint officials to refuse all applications from societies, while the pieces are liberally distributed among members of Congress, and friends of mint officials. Of the numerous pattern dollars issued between the years 1869 and 1874, none were even placed in the government collection, while in some mysterious manner they were offered at enormous prices to responsible collectors through outsiders in collusion with mint officials.

Mr. S. K. Harzfeld, of Philadelphia, who appears to have made some very pertinent inquiries into the subject of unlawful and secret issues of rare coins at the mint, thus expresses himself strongly, but we believe justly, on page 18 of his coin catalogue sale of Dec. 7, 1878, the remarks bearing particularly on the issue of the 1878 Morgan and Barber's designs of dollars offered by him

at that sale. "These patterns form but another leaf in the disgraceful story of the mismanagement of the United States mint. In other countries the mint is the centre from which numismatic knowledge emanates. In this country the mint abhors numismatic interests. It serves to coin money, to be run as a political machine and to be abused by a certain class of its officials. It is a rule of the mint that patterns shall be sold during the year of issue; but this year the sale of the Barber—Morgan dollars was refused by the mint, while parties connected with that institution in a clandestine manner, sold these patterns at enormous prices."

In an article on old American coins which appeared in the Philadelphia Times, Jan. 6th, 1879, we find the direct charge that the best counterfeits of American coins are not the production of uscrupulous coin dealers, but, strange to say, have been fraudulently restruck from the genuine dies by former employes of the Philadelphia mint. It is therein charged that the dollars of 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1838, 1851 and 1852; the quarters dollar of 1827, and valuable pattern coins to the amount of twenty thousand dollars have in this way been issued, cheating at the same time the United States Government and credulous coin collectors.

That gross irregularities have in the past existed in the Philadelphia mint, is a point conceded by even the mint authorities. Whether they take place at the present time or not, is a question which ought to be solved by proper investigation on the part of Congress, and at the instance, if need be, of the principal numismatic societies of the country. Our numismatic societies ought and are in duty bound, for the honor and credit of America's coinage, to which they give so much attention, and in which their members invest so much money, to demand a proper and thorough investigation. But numerous

complaints have already been made without avail, and even the voice of the press has been powerless. In an administration so complex in its details as the United States mint, and in which, after admission to office, individual honesty is seldom questioned, the total eradication of the evil will not take place, in spite of the now probable though tardy action of the Numismatic Societies, (*See Am. Journal of Num.*, April, 1879,) or of any possible Congressional investigation, until pattern pieces, like proof sets, are *openly sold, at fixed rates, and to anybody applying for them, during the entire year of their issue.* The adoption of this simple rule must put an end to the secret, illegal, and dishonorable traffic in pattern pieces, that, we have reason to believe, is even now taking place, from day to day, at the Philadelphia mint.

A MEDALET OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

We lately saw at the office of Mr. Wm. P. Brown, in New York, a medalet of Jefferson Davis, the late president of the Confederacy. The owner of the piece, who had left it with Mr. Brown for sale at a very high price, affirmed that the token is unique, but could or would not give any details concerning its history, except that it had been in his possession for many years, and is an authentic piece. The following is a description of the same: *Obv.* Bare head of Davis to left; legend, in curving line, JEFFERSON DAVIS; under the bust C. R. *Rev.* In curving line, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT; the date, 1861, in centre, within a wreath of olives; border milled and slightly raised; gold; size 11 1-2, American scale.

MONOGRAPH OF U. S. CENTS AND HALF CENTS, with 9 plates of Cents, 1-2 Cents, and rare Colonial Coins; published by Ed. Frossard at \$2.50 per copy; edition limited to 250 copies. No more plates will now be forwarded until the descriptive part is completed, when descriptions and plates will be sent together.

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Editor and Proprietor.

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ON A COIN OF NAPOLEON BONA- PARTE.

Written for "Numisma."

The sun is glorious now, bright as it shone
At Austerlitz, when with a ringing cheer
Thy legions dashed aside the Cossack's spear,
And shook the Austrian ruler's gilded throne.
Beneath thy brow, what victories have grown
On Egypt's sands, where Alpine snows rise drear,
Where swift Italian rivers murmur clear,
And o'er the Rhine from heaps of crumbling stone!
The nations trembled at thy muttered name,
And Kings made desperate battle with thy might;
They knew it tolled the death-knell of their sway—
They had no quarrel with thy noble fame,
Save that it showed each great soul's deathless right,
To rise above them to a grander day.

THOS. S. COLLIER.



MAXIMILIAN, HIS COINS AND MEDALS.

The Coins and Medals of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, extend over so short a period as to make it apparently an easy matter for collectors to secure more or less complete series, and hence such coins and medals have generally brought at the sales a higher price than would have been expected of coins of the day. The short career and melancholy fate of the Hapsburg prince so interested the mass of society, that many persons, who had no special interest in coins, and never purchased them, were glad to secure some pocket-piece, struck in Mexico, during the Empire,

making the interest in these coins more extensive than may be generally supposed.

As well as Mexican there are a number of Medals that were struck in Europe.

Referring first to the coins, we find them to consist of the \$20 gold piece, silver dollar, half dollar, ten cent, five cent and copper cent. Of these the gold piece is of greatest rarity. The design is the same as the dollar, but the dies were better finished and the impressions are generally sharp and perfect. They are infinitely scarcer than any of the coins, with one exception. It is only with the utmost search that they are met with in Mexico in whatever condition.

Following in order of rarity we have second: The cent struck only in 1864 at the Mexico mint, a coin rarely found in a condition suitable for collections, and whose existence has until recently been unknown to many collectors. Ob. Crowned Mex. Eagle and serpent perched on the nopal. "Imperio Mexicano." Rev. "1 centavo 1864, M." Wreath.

Third. The half dollar struck at Mexico, 1866. We have not seen any of any other date nor of any other mint.

Fourth. The five and ten cent pieces struck in 1864, 1865 and 1866, positively at the mints of Mexico, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosé and Zacatecas, and probably as well at some or all of the smaller mints.

Fifth. The dollar, 1866 and 1867, which we have noticed from the mints of Mexico, Guanajuato and Potosé in 1866, and afterwards in Mexico only. As the Mexican dollar has always been an article of export from that country, it results that there is a Maximilian dollar of 1866 which is common, and the only very common piece treated of in this article.

There is a Mo. dollar 1866, of extreme rarity, which has been known to very few persons until recently. In the Am. Jour. of Nu. for April, 1879, there appears an article copied

from a Phila. paper written by Dr. J. E. Nagle, giving an account of the breaking down of the first dies and the ominous fact that only 35 pieces were successfully struck, and that Maximilian was shot at the age indicated by this number of pieces; and also that one ball pierced the forehead exactly where the flaw appeared in the die. This story in all its details is not known to the numismatists of Mexico, but they do know that such a die did go to pieces after a few dollars were struck, and that subsequent dies were far inferior to it in workmanship. Impressions from the first die are eagerly sought for by those who know of them and they would bring high prices here. They are recognizable from the legend on the Ob. which is in shorter letters, the surface proof or approximately so, and the temple of the effigy much depressed. The Rev. is generally better struck, and shows the die to have been carefully finished. This is the exception made above in speaking of the gold piece.

Taking up the Mexican medals, we have first to call attention to one size, 13 1-2 bearing date 1863, which leads the van in point of time. During that year there was a junta formed comprising many Mexicans who were leaders in wealth at least, having for its object the formation of the Empire, and placing Maximilian on the throne, of which this medal is commemorative. Ob. "Maximiliano de Austria" a head to left, (which did not in the least resemble him.) Rev. "Junta de los notables Mexico 6 de Julio 1863—(Date of resolution or invitation) Brass—This piece is noticed in Am. Jour. Nu. Vol. XIII Page 22—It has probably never appeared in any American sale.

The other medals bearing the bust of Maximilian, 8 in number, were all designed by Navalon and some were also engraved by him, who is still charged with the medal department and the national collection of Coins at

the City of Mexico. Those medals were to be struck for distribution and in the hope of strengthening the Empire thereby. They were practically the preliminary pattern pieces, struck in silver and copper only (except the first which is only in copper) as follows:

Size 29—Ob. Head to right "Maximiliano Emperador de Mexico "Rev." Honor a la juventud Estudiosa;" wreath.

Size 29 Ob. same. Rev "Al merito cientifico y Artistico;" oak and laurel wreath. These two medals are so rare that they never have been offered at a sale in the U. S. it is believed, and only one of the former and two of the latter are known to exist here.

Size 9. Ob "Maximiliano Emperador" head to right. Rev. in oak wreath "Al merito civil." With and without ring.

Size 9. Ob. same Rev. in laurel wreath "Al merito militar."

These small medals are equally rare.

Size 18. Ob. Head to left, "1865 Maximilian Emperador." Rev. Virgin of Guadalupe, "Non fecit talitur onmi natione."

Size 21. Ob. "1866 Maximiliano y Carlota Emperadores." Their heads accolated to left. Rev. same as size 18.

Size 21. Ob. Head to right. "Maximiliano Emperador." Rev. In wreath of oak leaves, "Al merito civil." With and without ring.

Size 21. Ob. same as preceding. Rev. In laurel wreath, "Al merito militar." With and without ring. (*See illustration.*)

The four medals last mentioned have appeared in a few sales.

There is another medal belonging to the Maximilian period designed for distribution in the government schools size 23 1-2, copper and silver, by Vivier. Ob. "A la aplicacion premio de honor"—winged figure seated on clouds recording in open book, Rev. In wreath "La autoridad Politica de Mexico"—

Of the *Medals struck in Europe* we have noticed the following:

Large copper medal by Wurden, size 43, Ob. Heads accolated "Maximilien Empereur Charlotte Imperatrice" Rev. Appeles par le voeu du peuple a faire le bonheur du Mexique. A Miramar le 10 Avril 1864."

Size 22 Copper gilt with ring—Ob. Head to right "Maximiliano Emperador" Rev. "Al merito Militar." Laurel wreath.

Size 21 Copper with ring, by E. Falot, Ob. Head to right "Maximiliano Emperador" Rev. "Al merito militar." Laurel wreath.

Size 22 1-2 Copper with ring, by Stern, Ob. entirely different head to left. Same inscriptions.

Size 21 1-2 Silver with ring, by G. T. Head similar to last and to left. Same inscriptions.

Size 10 Silver with ring Ob. Head to right. Same inscriptions.

Large mortuary medal by A. Kleeberg in white metal. Ob. Head to right "Maximilian I. Imperator Mehicorum" Rev. Tomb, &c—"Natus 6 Julii 1832, 19 Junii 1867."

And finally the small mortuary medal in white metal and copper gilt size 14 1-2 Ob. head to right "Maximilian I Kaiser von Mexico." Rev. "Geb. 6 Juli 1832, 19 Juni 1867" and the arms from the reverse of the dollar but reduced in size.

ORDERS.

A brief notice of the orders of the Mexican Empire may be of interest. They consist of the Order of the Mexican Eagle, the order of our lady of Guadalupe, and the Order of San Carlos, conferred by Carlota only on ladies, and principally on her dames d' honneur. The order of Guadalupe was established by Yturbe in 1822, temporarily resuscitated by Santa Ana in 1853 to 1855 and again revised by Maximilian who decorated several persons with the order a day or two after his arrival at the capital on June 12, 1864 and after grand mass at the church of Guadalupe.

The large plaque of the order of the Eagle is one of the most beautiful of its class. It contains a large number of rubies and emeralds in two concentric circles, size 22 in diameter, around a central gold plate on which is laid the eagle in gold. Exterior to the jewels extend outward silver rays, making the whole spread size 60, with their upper surface cut into innumerable brilliants. No legend.

The Guadalupe plaque is slightly smaller, all silver fire-gilt without any jewels. Central portion consists of a superposed Maltese cross lying on a wreath. Centre of cross consists of a representation of the Virgin of Guadalupe surrounded by "Religion" Independencia "Union." Wings of cross in national colors of Mexico—i. e. red, white, and green—all in enamel and gilt.

The 2d badge of the Eagle is a silver gilt eagle standing on nopal of green enamel, the whole suspended from a silver gilt crown, containing jewels represented in enamel, and ring—the whole size 45x25, weight about 2 1-2 oz. The emblems of the order are a green centre 3-5 of width with red borders each 1-5 of whole width.

The 3d badge of the Eagle is a smaller eagle in silver. In other respects the same.

The 2d badge of the order of Guadalupe is a silver gilt enameled Maltese cross resembling the central cross of the plaque, but smaller, with the same central figure and legend.

The 3d is the same but smaller.

The 4th is very small about size 16 in length, in solid gold. In other respects the same.

The badge of the order of San Carlos consists of a Roman cross with silver body enameled white, with a smaller concentric green cross with the word "Humilitad" in gold letters in the horizontal bar of the latter.

"S."

THE Numismatic and Archaeological Society of New York held its twenty-first annual meeting on the 26th of March last, at their rooms, Mott Memorial Hall, 64 Madison Avenue.

The annual address by the president, following the usual interesting proceedings, such as reading of original papers by members, etc., was on this memorable occasion supplemented by his presenting to the society a magnificent silver vase, filled with fragrant flowers, afterwards distributed to the members, and with the inscription engraved on one side: "TO THE N. AND A. S. ON ITS TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY, BY ITS PRESIDENT, CHARLES E. ANTHON, L. L. D."

Previous to the adjournment of the meeting, the following resolution was offered by Mr. I. F. Wood, and was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in accepting the beautiful memento, presented this evening by our President, we do heartily join in the spirit of fraternal comity with which it is given, and recognize in its character and mode of usefulness, a most fitting and graceful means of annually calling to mind at future reunions, the value which we must ever set upon the past services of Dr. Charles E. Anthon to this society, and the sciences it endeavors to foster.

The following gentlemen were then elected as officers for the ensuing year.

President, Charles E. Anthon, L. L. D.; Vice Presidents, Alexander Balmanno, Daniel Parish, Jr., Frederick de Peyster; Secretary, William Poillon; Treasurer, Benjamin Betts; Librarian, Isaac F. Wood; Curator, Richard H. Lawrence.

The Amer. Arch. and Num. Society of New York, is at present established on the firmest foundation and is in a very flourishing state. During the last year many have become identified with its interests, while others are being gradually drawn to the charmed numismatic circle. We are sorry to note the

withdrawal of Mr. Edward Groh as Curator of the Society. From its incipient state in 1858 until now, he has faithfully filled the position, and under his care the cabinet of the society has gradually grown from a few common cents to a collection embracing thousands of choice and rare specimens.

Mr. Groh is followed by our energetic and talented young friend, Mr. Richard H. Lawrence, whose qualifications for the position the nominating committee were remarkably prompt to discover, as he only became a member two or three months ago.

COIN SALES.

March 3-8. At Clinton Hall, New York, the Schieffelin Collection; catalogue by Scott & Co.; 3,005 lots. Beside the fundamental errors pointed out in our last issue, the catalogue possessed other radical defects which condemn it altogether in the eyes of collectors. The descriptions as regards state of preservation were altogether too flattering to the coins. This was about the unanimous judgment of those who attended the sale; poor and barely fair coins being described as fine and very fine. 2d. The number of counterfeits among the gems of the collection; for instance, No. 1005 "one of the gems of the collection"—an electrotpe from a gold coin; No. 1084 "one of the rarest coins in the collection"—a cast, worth 25c; No. 1086, formerly the gem of Sir Edward Temple's collection—a forgery; No. 1258, very rare—an altered piece; No. 2094, "to which particular attention is called"—a counterfeit. Still another point is that in spite of the assurances given in the preface "that they (the coins) have all been faithfully described," etc., the undertakers, when questioned on that point before the sale, by a reputable coin connoisseur, would not guarantee any piece in the sale. The distinction between "a genuine coin" and "a coin faithfully described,"

our dulled intellect fails to perceive. Will the learned Englishman who presides over the destinies of the 13th Department of his miscellaneous business enlighten us in the next issue of his "Monthly Pap for Numismatic Babes"?

March 11. American and Foreign Coins at Pittsburgh, Pa. Catalogue by S. H. Morgan, Esq. 375 lots.

March 14. Coins and Medals; ancient and modern. Harzfeld's 4th sale; sold by Bangs & Co., 656 Broadway, New York. 710 lots.

March 18. Coins and Medals sold at Boston, Mass. Catalogue by Henry Cook, Esq. 317 lots.

March 25. Sale of Continental and Colonial Paper Money, U. S. Government Scrip, and Confed. Notes and Bonds, Catalogue by C. H. Bechtel, Esq. Sold by Bangs & Co., 656 Broadway. At this sale the U. S. fractional currency brought very high prices. 516 lots.

March 27. Sale of Coins and Medals, the property of the late J. E. Barratt, Esq., of Jefferson, N. Y. Catalogued by Dr. C. E. Fraser, Jr. Sold at Bangs & Co. 708 lots.

March 27. American and Foreign Coins and Medals, catalogued by Scott & Co; sold by Messrs. Leavitt. 529 lots.

March 31—April 2. W. Elliot Woodward's 21st sale; the Bowdoin collection; sold at Bangs & Co., New York. 2359 lots. A valuable catalogue.

April 15. Coins and medals sold at Philadelphia by Thomas Birch & Sons. 578 lots.

April 30. American and foreign coins sold at Pittsburgh, Pa. Catalogue by D. F. Henry; 225 lots.

COMING SALES.

May 1st and 2d, at Bangs & Co., 739 and 741 Broadway, New York, Mr. Ed. Cogan will offer the large, fine, and well known col-

lection of gold, silver, and copper coins and medals of Michael Moore, Esq., of Trenton Falls, N. Y. In cataloguing the ancient coins, Mr. Cogan, with an honesty of purpose and a modesty which others would have done well to imitate, had every piece examined by the most competent authorities, and withdrew at the request of the owner of the collection every piece on which rested the least suspicion. Purchasers can therefore feel assured that whatever they buy here is genuine. The assortment of ancient and also of modern foreign coins is one of the finest ever offered in the United States.

Between May 25 and June 10th, we shall offer at Bangs & Co., New York, a collection of ancient and modern coins, American and foreign, the property of an amateur. The collection numbers very many fine specimens of Roman bronze, remarkably fine foreign copper coins, many desirable U. S. silver and copper coins, Colonial coins, and a very full selection of Mexican and South American coins. We ask our friends to accord us their support in this sale, and to send their orders through us or any reputable dealer in New York or Philadelphia.

ALBERT BARRE.

Albert Barre, the official engraver of the French mint, born May 6th, 1818, died at Paris, Dec. 29, 1878. From 1803 to 1843, Tivolier, father and son held the position. In 1843 the elder Barre succeeded and held the position till 1855, when he was followed by his son, lately deceased. Albert Barre was the designer of all French coins struck since 1855, beside being employed by Brazil, South Am. Rep., Switzerland, Belgium and Greece. Specimens of his work are found in the cabinet of every collector throughout the world.